

What's New in the MPDC

OCTOBER 29, 2001

MPDC ENCOURAGES PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO BE SAFE AND VIGILANT THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween can also be a holiday when some adults get carried away. Again this year, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is offering free cab rides home for people who have had too much to drink this Halloween. For complete information on the SoberRide program, visit:

www.soberride.com

Given the events of the last two months, some parents have expressed concern about the safety of Halloween this year. The MPDC encourages parents and their children to be especially careful and vigilant this year in following basic Halloween safety tips. While there are no known threats that would impact safety this Halloween, it is always a good idea to follow some basic rules with respect to costumes, pedestrian safety and handling candy and other treats. The MPDC recommends that responsible adults accompany young children while they are trick-or-treating and, of course, that adults inspect all candy before it is consumed. Individuals who have reason-

ably serious suspicions about the safety of Halloween candy should call the police non-emergency number, 3-1-1, reserving 9-1-1 for only those situations that pose an immediate threat to public safety. For a more comprehensive list of Halloween safety tips, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/halloweensafety.shtm

Regardless of the time of the year, it's always good to know DC's laws on drinking and driving. Get the facts at:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm

CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES COUNCIL ON PROGRESS OF PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

In testimony this week before two DC Council Committees, Chief Ramsey noted that DC's red-light camera and photo radar programs are achieving their intended goal: to reduce aggressive driving. Red-light running violations have fallen by more than 63 percent at the 39 intersections equipped with photo enforcement cameras. That is the equivalent of approximately 24,000 fewer violations each month. While the photo radar speeding reduction program is only a few months old, the Chief told the Council that preliminary results are encouraging. For example, the average speed of vehicles passing through 25 mph photo enforcement zones has dropped from 35.5 mph in July, to 31.8 in August, to 31.3 in September. The percentage of drivers exceeding the speeding threshold has also dropped over the first few months of the program. Ramsey also told the Council that the MPDC is looking to renegotiate its contract with the program vendor, ACS, Inc., to remove any perception of conflicts of interest. Read the Chief's complete statement at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2001/102201.shtm

The fine for running red lights in the District is \$75. Speeding fines range up to \$200, depending on how fast over the posted speed limit the motorist was traveling.

MPDC RELEASE MURDER ANALYSIS REPORT

In testimony this week before the DC Council Judiciary Committee, Chief Ramsey explained the rationale behind his decision to reorganize homicide investigations. Read his statement at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2001/102301.shtm

The MPDC this week released a comprehensive study of homicides in the District of Columbia over the last 10 years, with a particular focus on 1998 through 2000. The report contains a wealth of information about homicide offenses, victims, offenders and murder investigations in the District. It has been particularly valuable in analyzing and evaluating recent efforts to reduce DC's homicide rate, and helped to determine how the MPDC will organize and manage homicide investigations in the future.

According to the report, the number of homicides in the District of Columbia continues to decline. However, the homicide clearance rate has also decreased. In an effort to increase this homicide clearance rate, in January 2002, the MPDC will expand and staff a Violent Crimes Branch within our Office of the Superintendent of Detectives. This new structure will bring several new benefits to the Department, including centralized command and control of homicide and other major crime investigations to ensure greater consistency and enhanced accountability in individual investigations. Download a PDF version of the Homicide Analysis Report at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/homicidereport.pdf

MPDC TO HOLD ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY ON NOVEMBER 8TH

On Thursday, November 7, the District of Columbia will honor MPDC police officers, civilian employees, and residents who have excelled in making DC neighborhoods safer and more livable. Among the awards presented will be the *Medal of Valor*, for bravery and heroism; the *Lifesaving Awards*; the *Blue Badge Award*, for members seriously injured in the line of duty; and the *Chief of Police Special Award*, given to community members who have built strong partnerships with the police to reduce crime. Join the MPDC at the DAR Constitutional Hall, 18th & D Streets, NW, at 7 pm to help honor those who serve the community in a variety of ways.

Award ceremonies honoring officers, civilian employees and community members include the Mayor's Meritorious Awards and CHAMPS. Read about past awardees at:
mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/heroes.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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